

Kasai – Mapping report: 20 years of impunity in Congo

- 10 years of conflict
- 617 incidents or crimes amounting to war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law
- No official names made public
- No legal proceedings

At the end of 2005, three mass graves were discovered in the East. In June 2006, the United Nations announced for the first time in a report given to the Security Council its intention to send a team of human rights specialists to the DRC to make a listing of the crimes committed in Congo during the two wars.

Read or re-read: UN releases DRC report listing 10 years of atrocities

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20100826-rapport-onu-fait-inventaire-10-ans-crime-rdc>

Between October 2008 and May 2009, 33 UN, Congolese and international employees worked on this project. The Mapping Project report is more than 550 pages in length and includes a description of 617 violent incidents between March 1993 and June 2003: war crimes, crimes against humanity, violations of international humanitarian law. These 617 incidents call for prosecution, according to the UN. But impunity in the country still persists.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/RDCProjetMapping.aspx>

Five years after the publication of the Mapping report, the Congolese government continues to promise the establishment of a specialized court. The bill to introduce this has been blocked, according to the authorities, because of technical problems. But there are still no courts, let alone investigations.

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20141004-mapping-report-onu-obstacles-creation-chambres-specialisees>

The "Mapping report" was already a first step after years of silence. The crimes referred to in this UN report were essentially known and traces of them were left behind. The UN report targeted the Rwandan and Ugandan armies for having committed these crimes in the first place. That is why the United States and Britain, in particular, have hushed up all investigations so far. Rwanda primarily benefited from this impunity, since it was considered an economic "success story" after the tragedy of the genocide.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) never published the list of officers and politicians responsible for these crimes.

On 8 March 2016, Dr Denis Mukwege (a Congolese gynaecologist in Bukavu, Director of the Panzi Hospital, which deals with women who have been raped in South Kivu), submitted a letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It was signed by nearly 200 national and international NGOs. It called for the publication of the database identifying the main perpetrators of the crimes described in the Mapping report.

"We want political and military leaders of these war crimes and crimes against humanity to be held accountable, regardless of their borders and whatever function they occupy today." - Extract from the open letter of some 200 NGOs to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 8 March 2015

Read: Open Letter: Stop Impunity

<https://www.acatfrance.fr/actualite/lettre-ouverte-des-ong-congolaises-et-internationale-aux-nations-unies---stop-a-l-impunite>

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights justified maintaining the confidentiality of the names of the perpetrators of these crimes by saying that this publication could cause victims and witnesses more suffering.

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